## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 /101 W

-----023877 240203Z /64

R 211540Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7146
INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 800

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, SF
SUBJECT: NEW CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS - SAG TO EXTEND SENATE
TO JUNE 30, 1980

REF: (A) CAPE TOWN A-20 (NOTAL), (B) 77 CAPE TOWN A-194,

- 1. THE SAG INTRODUCED A BILL IN PARLIAMENT THIS WEEK WHICH WILL EXTEND THE PERIOD OF OFFICE OF SENATORS TO JUNE 30, 1980. WITHOUT THE EXTENSION, CURRENT SENATE TERMS WOULD HAVE EXPIRED IN JUNE, 1979.
- 2. IN TERMS OF SAG'S NEW CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS (REF B) SENATE IS TO BE ABOLISHED AND THREE UNICAMERAL PARLIAMENTS FORMED. DECISION TO EXTEND PRESENT SENATE TO MID-1980 IS AT VARIANCE WITH COMMENTS MADE BY DEFENSE MINISTER P.W. BOTHA IN MARCH (REF A) THAT LEGISLATION WOULD BE INTRODUCED TO TERMINATE SENATE EXISTANCE BEFORE END OF 1979. SAG HAS BEEN VAGUE ON WHEN NEW SYSTEM WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED. PM VORSTER TOLD ASSEMBLY IN JANUARY SAG HAOPED TO INTRODUCE UNCLASSIFIED

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THE NECESSARY LEGISLATION NEXT YEAR WHILE PLURAL RELATIONS MINISTER CONNIE MULDER HAD INDICATED PUBLICLY NEW SYSTEM MIGHT NOT BE IMPLEMENTED UNTIL 1980.

3. DECISION TO EXTEND RATHER THAN ABOLISH IT LEAVES SAG'S OPTIONS OPEN. IF NEW CONSTITUTIONAL SCHEME READY FOR IMPLEMENTATION BY MID-1980, SENATE CAN BE ALLOWED TO EXPIRE.

IF NOT, SAG CAN, AT APPROPRIATE TIME,	OPT FOR	ANOTHER	EXTENSION.
NEL SON			

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## Message Attributes

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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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